

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 01271 031549Z

42

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2436

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FOR AMBASSADOR MARTIN FROM CHARGE' LEHMANN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR VS

SUBJECT: OPEN LETTER FROM NINE AMERICAN DEMONSTRATORS

1. YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE THE RECIPIENT OF THE FOLLOWING "OPEN LETTER TO GRAHAM MARTIN" DATED JANUARY 27 AND MAILED FROM THE INDOCHINA PEACE CAMPAIGN, 181 PIER AVENUE, SANTA MONICA, CA. IT IS SIGNED BY THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED IN PARA 3 OF SAIGON 0916.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. MARTIN:

WE ARE THE NINE AMERICANS WHO DEMONSTRATED FOR PEACE IN FRONT OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SAIGON ON JANUARY 24. DURING OUR PROTEST, YOU AGREED TO MEET WITH US THE FOLLOWING DAY. APPARENTLY YOU HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT ANSWERING OUR QUESTIONS BECAUSE THAT NIGHT YOU ORDERED ARMED SAIGON POLICE TO SURROUND OUR HOTEL, ARREST US, AND DEPORT US FROM SOUTH VIETNAM. EVEN AFTER WE WERE PUT ON THE PLANE, AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIED US AND FOLLOWED OUR ROUTE HOME.

YOUR RELUCTANCE NOTWITHSTANDING, YOUR ACTIVITIES AS OUR AMBASSADOR TO SAIGON INVOLVED ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED:

YOUR ROLE IN SOUTH VIETNAM HAS BEEN TO DIRECT THE CONTINUING WAR,

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 01271 031549Z

DISPENSING LITERALLY

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ARMS, AMMUNITION, MONEY AND ADVICE IN VIOLATION OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS. OVER 86 PER CENT OF THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE THIEU GOVERNMENT ARE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY. THE CONTROL BY THE EMBASSY OVER THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT WAS NEVER MORE EVIDENT THAN DURING OUR PROTEST. EVERY ACTION TAKEN BY SAIGON POLICE WAS UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE EMBASSY OFFICIAL QUIETLY RELAYING ORDERS FROM THE EMBASSY'S MACHINE GUN TURRET. TACTICAL DECISIONS WERE MADE BY U.S. PERSONNEL DRIVING SAIGON POLICE JEEPS.

IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE "CEASE-FIRE", U.S. AID TO SAIGON CAN BE MEASURED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIVES; IT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO:

111,876 VIETNAMESE KILLED

228,421 VIETNAMESE WOUNDED

887,000 VIETNAMESE MADE REFUGEES

1,217,297 TOTAL VIETNAMESE KILLED, WOUNDED OR MADE REFUGEES SINCE THE "CEASE-FIRE" (SOURCES: U.S. PENTAGON INFORMATION OFFICE, GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM, SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, HEARINGS ON "HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN INDOCHINA", JULY 18, 1974).

THE RECENT UPSURGE IN FIGHTING HAS SHOWN THAT YOURS AND SAIGON'S POLICY OF TRYING TO TAKE OVER MORE AND MORE LAND WILL ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER ESCALATIONS.

EQUALLY AS REPREHENSIBLE HAS BEEN YOUR ROLE IN DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BY COVERING-UP THE TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR, THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT, AND THE SAIGON POLICE STATE. WE SAW FIRST-HAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT THE U.S. SUPPORTS SO LAVISHLY MAKES A MOCKERY OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. WHEN WE BEGAN DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS CALLING FOR PEACE TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS, THE SAIGON POLICE TRIED TO RIP THEM FROM THEIR HANDS AND HALT ALL TRAFFIC FOR BLOCKS AROUND. ONE OF FOUR VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST NUNS WHO CAME TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR ACTIONS WAS ASSAULTED AND ARRESTED BY SAIGON POLICE. EVEN NOW, WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE SHE IS BEING HELD NOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER.

YET YOU REPORT THAT SAIGON ALLOWS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO ITS CITIZENS, HOLDS NO POLITICAL PRISONERS AND OBEYS THE PEACE AGREEMENT.

IF YOU ARE OUR AMBASSADOR, WE DESERVE THE TRUTH.
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 01271 031549Z

WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF ENDING YOUR ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, NOR OF ALLOWING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO LEARN THE FACTS.

YOU REFUSED TO MEET WITH US, SO WE ARE SENDING YOU THIS OPEN LETTER IN HOPE OF INFORMING PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE AND YOUR WORK.

IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER INFORMED AND CONCERNED AMERICANS WILL URGE CONGRESS TO DENY THE RECENTLY REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTAL \$300 MILLION TO FUEL THE WAR. AND WE WILL

WORK TO TERMINATE THE DISGRACEFUL POLICY OF DESTRUCTION IN INDOCHINA
AND DECEIT IN AMERICA WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTING FOR TOO
MANY YEARS. END TEXT.
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